The North Yakima Conservation District has continued to build upon its 2000 activities and projects with a fully diverse and successful 2001 district program. The NYCD program continues to address local natural resource problems and issues that effect our community. The activities and projects listed represent the core of the 2001 North Yakima Conservation District program.

The following descriptions detail North Yakima Conservation District's 2001 district programs, and many of the accomplishments of those projects.

MOXEE DRAIN IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE BMP IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT 1994-2001

Started in 1994, this Project addresses the non-point source pollution problem of the Moxee Drain and it's impacts upon the Yakima River. This Project uses a multi-entity approach to solve the Drains' impacts and provides adequate protection of the resource base. Project emphasis is directed at protecting the 7500 acres of furrow irrigated hop ground that causes approximately 95% of the non-point source pollution problem associated with the Moxee Drain.

Components of this Project include:

- Environmental Protection Agency 319 Grant, awarded to NYCD and administered by Ecology to provide technical assistance, monitoring program, information and education, planning assistance, one on one landowner (producer) contact, and overall Project Administration. (1994-1997)
- Centennial Clean Water Grant, awarded to NYCD and administered by Ecology to provide technical assistance, monitoring program, information and education, planning assistance, one on one landowner (producer) contact, and overall Project Administration. (1998-2001)

These two grant awards created the "backbone" or "hub" of this Hydrologic Unit project.

- Natural Resources Conservation Service, PL83-566 Small Watershed Project, titled "Moxee Watershed Plan" sponsored by NYCD. This Plan provides technical and financial assistance for the conversion of "furrow " irrigated lands to drip / trickle irrigation systems. (1994 - Present)
- Farm Service Agency "Special Project " designation to the Moxee Watershed, sponsored by NYCD, to provide financial assistance to the Project. (1994, 1995, and 1996)
- United States Department of Agriculture's, Environmental Quality Incentives Program-EQIP. The conservation districts of the Yakima River Basin established Local Working Groups to create Geographic Priority Areas (GPA) to utilize this Program. The program is administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and provides technical and financial assistance to the established GPA's.
- **Local landowner and producer participation**, to provide technical and financial assistance to the project. Without this component the Project would have never happened.

These four "programs" created the "meat" or "spokes" of this Hydrologic Unit project.

Project Highlights include:

- Reducing sediment loads from their historical levels (1974-1981) of **43.0** tons per day during the irrigation season to a projected **4.1** tons per day in 2001 (9.4 t/d in 2000, 14.3 t/d in 1999, 17.9 t/d in 1998).
- Conversion of 85% or 6271 acres from furrow irrigated lands to drip irrigation systems. (spring 2001 inventory data). The remaining 1096 acres have been contracted and will be implemented by 2003.
- 100% landowner participation. All of the landowners that utilize furrow irrigation are participating in NYCD's Project.

- This Project has utilized $2,570,840 in state and federal cost-share, and as a result has leveraged approximately $6,269,560 from the local landowner, which clearly demonstrates the value of incentive programs directed at on-farm conservation.

The success of this Project is the result of many entities and programs being brought together by NYCD to address a resource issue with local landowners in a win-win scenario.

RIPARIAN RESTORATION PROGRAM
2000-2002

North Yakima Conservation District has initiated a Riparian Restoration program intended to provide technical and financial assistance to local landowners in an effort to begin implementing Salmon Recovery activities. As a result of ESA issues NYCD is utilizing funding from the Conservation Commission to provide technical assistance, project administration, and coordination. NYCD is currently complimenting this Project with implementation funding through a Cooperative Agreement with the United States Department of Fish and Wildlife.

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD GRANT
BUCHANAN RANCH 2001-2005

North Yakima Conservation District has entered into a MOA with the Bureau of Reclamation to implement a comprehensive restoration plan on 290 acres along a 2-mile stretch of Wenas Creek at the Yakima River. This plan will be implemented with funding from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. This project will restore floodplain function, stabilize streambanks, create stream buffers and provide valuable salmon and resident fish rearing habitat. This project will also serve as a catalyst for other restoration and education projects in the Wenas Watershed.

NORTH YAKIMA CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S
INFORMATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM
1995-Present

This on-going District Program provides a wide variety of information and educational resources. NYCD provides in class presentation as well as field trip related experiences to local schools. NYCD has established several scholarships for continued education. Additionally NYCD's I&E program reaches the general public through participation at Central Washington State Fair, workshops and expositions. The objective of this Program is to provide information and education related to all natural resource protection issues of the NYCD.

NYCD'S WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM
1998-Present

NYCD with funding from the Department of Ecology has established a water quality-monitoring program for the entire District. The program is designed to establish baseline data on the hundreds of stream miles within the District. By monitoring streams NYCD will be able to identify and target specific areas of water quality concern with implementation programs. This program currently monitors the Ahtanum Creek, Wide Hollow Creek, Cowiche Creek and Wenas Creek Watersheds. The program monitors water quality for temperature, turbidity, total suspended solids, pH, conductivity and dissolved oxygen.